

*QUESTIONS*  
&  
*ANSWERS*  
*FOR SPEAKERS*

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## SOVEREIGNTY

1. **What are the implications of a directly elected 'European' Parliament?**

A directly elected 'European' Parliament (which is a requirement under the Treaty of Rome and is to be pushed forward as soon as 'renegotiation' is over) is directly contrary to the sovereignty of our own Parliament, which becomes a provincial institution. The representatives of the British electorate can be outvoted at any time on any question, and the British electorate cannot any longer choose at the ballot-box the policies they prefer.

2. **What does sovereignty mean?**

It means that our people and Parliament (and *no* external power) make the laws and imposes the taxes; in other words, self-Government. This is a right which the most recently liberated ex-Colonial state anywhere in the world takes for granted.

3. **Have we lost any of our sovereignty by our membership of U.N., I.M.F., O.E.C.D., N.A.T.O., W.E.U.?**

No, because none of these can change our law and taxes: we co-operate with them by consent and can leave them if we wish.

4. **Will we be breaking the Treaty of Accession if we withdraw from the Common Market?**

No: The Treaty of Rome, to which we acceded by the Treaty of Accession though 'for an indefinite period' is not in terms permanent. Throughout H.M.G. warned the E.E.C. that one Parliament could not bind another and therefore the European Communities Act, 1972, on which accession depends, can be repealed.

5. **Will we be 'isolated' or be 'turning our backs on Europe' if we leave the Common Market?**

No: We shall remain members of the Council of

Europe, O.E.C.D., N.A.T.O. (which France—in the E.E.C.—is not, while Norway—outside the E.E.C.—is) and we shall continue to trade with the E.E.C. countries either across their low external tariff or with no more obstacles than at present. The latter is the more likely as they will wish to keep as much as possible of their favourable balance of visible trade with us. We could also rejoin E.F.T.A.

**6. What is meant by full hearted consent. . . ?**

Nobody can put a precise figure to a term like “full hearted”, but everyone knows what it is NOT. A majority of 8 votes in the crucial division on the E.C. Bill is clearly not the full-hearted consent of Parliament. The consent (full hearted or not) of the people has not until now been sought, let alone given. In other countries majorities of two-thirds or three-quarters are needed for constitutional change.

**7. Does membership of the Common Market leave our law-making powers and law-court system intact?**

No. The E.C. Act expressly provides that community laws, and court rulings override those of Parliament and the British courts. This is implicit in belonging to the Common Market, and is already happening.

**8. Can an incoming British Parliament reverse Common Market legislation?**

This would be inconsistent with membership. The straightforward and honest thing is to negotiate our way out or, alternatively; a separate relationship for Britain with the rest of the E.E.C.

**9. How far is the right of veto a protection to our independence?**

There is only a very limited right of veto in the Treaties. In addition the so-called ‘Luxembourg agreement to disagree’ of January 1966 is of doubtful validity. The veto—so far as it exists—can work against us, because it enables any one member

to prevent changes, modifications or special arrangements which Britain desires. The intention of the pro-Marketeers is to move towards the abolition of the veto.

## ECONOMIC

**10. Has joining the Common Market helped us to pay our way in the world, and given us the “positive and substantial” trade surplus promised in the 1971 White Paper?**

NO. Just the opposite. Britain had only a very small trade deficit with the Common Market Six in 1970 (£70m). In 1974, the second year after joining, we had—instead of a surplus—a trade deficit of £1,946m. This equalled 100% of our trade deficit (apart from oil) with the whole world. (Col. 290 Hansard February 17, 1975). Our total non-oil deficit was therefore very largely a Common Market affair.

**11. What is the alternative policy for Britain to pursue if we withdraw from the Common Market?**

Having withdrawn, Britain can and should rejoin E.F.T.A. (European Free Trade Association) group of countries. This group (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and Iceland) has generally prospered in the last two years outside the Market. They have also signed an agreement for tariff-free trade in industrial goods with all the Common Market countries as well as with each other. Thus they enjoy free trade access to the Common Market itself without the burdens of the Common Agricultural Policy, or the authoritarian bureaucracy in Brussels. There is no reason why U.K. should not achieve the same relationship. Many people even British businessmen, do not realise this, and wrongly assume that withdrawal would mean higher tariffs against British goods. Two-thirds of British trade is in any case outside the E.E.C. Six.

**12. How has Norway fared after voting to stay out?**

Most successfully. The Norwegian pro-marketeters, before the Referendum, told the Norwegian public that economic disaster would follow if Norway stayed out. Instead, she has enjoyed outside the E.E.C. the most prosperous year in her history with a currency valued upwards, high employment and a rise in prices much slower than in Britain or Ireland who joined. The Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics gives this report on Norway's experience in 1974 outside the Common Market:

"The domestic picture remains dominated by an investment boom expected to last out the year while consumer demand is expected to become of increasing importance, stimulated by an increase in earnings and an expansive budget policy. . . Norway has absorbed the effects of the oil crisis rather more smoothly than most countries. Real domestic demand grew even faster between 1973 and 1974 than it did the year before. The country is one of the few in the O.E.C.D. not experiencing significant loss of output and unemployment during the present recession. . . There are no grounds for anticipating any general recession in Norway. Losses of production are likely to be avoided and a high level of employment maintained".

So the pro-marketeters have now changed their tune completely and say this is all due to Norwegian oil. That is not what they said before Norway's referendum. And Britain has twice as much oil as Norway.

**13. Can Britain be prevented from rejoining the E.F.T.A. Group?**

No. The E.F.T.A. countries would welcome our return. Since we should already be trading freely with those countries and the Market itself, the Brussels authorities could not prevent us and would be very unlikely to try. We should simply be proposing that the tariff status quo should be

maintained. This is the alternative which would suit Britain best. We would regain our right of self-government and our freedom to trade with the Commonwealth and other countries as we wished. Any attempt by the E.E.C. to discriminate between us would be contrary to Article 110 of the Treaty of Rome which says:

"By establishing a customs union between themselves the Member States intend to contribute, in conformity with the common interest, to the harmonious development of world trade, the progressive abolition of restrictions on international exchanges and the lowering of customs barriers".

**14. In the improbable event of the Common Market raising industrial tariffs discriminatingly against us, what would happen?**

It would have no major effect on British trade, but would somewhat improve our trade balance. The Common Market tariff now averages only 7% or 8% on industrial goods and is likely to be reduced further in the 1975 world tariff negotiations under G.A.T.T. Even therefore, if the Market tariff were reimposed, it would only be at a rate of 5% or 6% on average; and the average British industrial tariff is rather higher. Denmark and Ireland would almost certainly maintain free trade with the U.K. A tariff of 5% or 6% on only one-third of our exports would have no great effect. But since the British industrial tariff is rather higher, the trade balance would move in our favour.

**15. Why do some Common Market countries want Britain to stay in?**

Not for our good. But mainly because the cost of supporting inefficient high cost agriculture in France and Italy and the Brussels bureaucratic machine is so great that Germany, Holland and Belgium prefer to load it onto the British consumer and taxpayer through the Brussels "budget" rather than pay it themselves. There are also some in the Market—in Denmark for instance—who do not like

the Market without us because of its strong inward-looking and authoritarian tendencies and the drive towards federalism. Some in Brussels have their eye on Britain's offshore oil.

**16. Has the Common Market benefitted the mass of the people living within it?**

Dr. Sicco Mansholt, then President of the Brussels Commission, said this on January 2nd, 1973, speaking at Hampton Court: "The disparities in standards of living between different areas of the Community have become more marked rather than less, and for the great mass of the population there has been no broad improvement in conditions generally".

### FOOD

**17. Has the Common Market meant dearer food for Britain?**

Yes without question. This is proved by comparing the experience of Britain and Ireland who joined the Market on the one hand, and on the other Norway and Sweden who stayed out. Between the autumn of 1971 and the end of 1974, the price of food in the shops rose 43.6% in Britain and 46.5% in Ireland; but only 18.4% in Sweden and 23% in Norway. This shows that about half the rise in food prices we have suffered since 1971 has been due to joining the Common Market.

**18. Which foods could now be bought more cheaply if we were outside the Common Market?**

Almost all the main foods. In particular, beef, veal, mutton, lamb, butter and cheese; and many kinds of fish, fruit and other foods. Even grain prices, which were higher outside the Common Market for a few months of 1974, have now fallen below the Brussels level.

**19. Will food cost more if we stay in the Common Market?**

Yes. Butter for instance has to be forced up from a floor price now of £552 a ton (£300 before we joined the Market) to at least £930 by 1978. If we stay out of the Common Market, it would probably fall. The other main foods will also go up in price.

**20. How does the Common Market force up food prices?**

By imposing heavy taxes on imports or keeping them out altogether and by buying up home produced food for storage. This latter process, called "intervention" creates the beef, butter and other "mountains" which the public inside the Market is not allowed to buy. Butter now bears a tax of £300 a ton and cheese of £380. Altogether the following imported foods have borne taxes since we joined the Common Market: beef, veal, mutton, lamb, canned hams, pork, fish, eggs, butter, cheese, margarine, tinned and fresh fruit, vegetables, maize, barley, and many secondary foods.

The British Housewife pays the tax and the money is handed over to Brussels.

**21. What is the beef mountain?**

It is the stockpile of between 200,000 and 300,000 tons of beef which the Brussels bureaucrats keep in warehouses to stop the prices coming down to the level of world prices. In 1974, some 130,000 tons of Common Market beef were sold to people outside the Market at prices 30% or 40% below the price inside, and 85,000 tons of this went to Russia. All beef imports from the rest of the world into the Common Market were shut out to keep prices up, even though Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Brazil and Yugoslavia could all have sold us cheaper food.

22. Does the Common Market sell its own food cheaper outside?

Yes. As long as you are outside the Market, you can buy even its own home produced food cheaper, because it is sold outside at subsidised prices.

23. Which countries could sell us cheaper food today if we were outside the Common Market?

Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Malaysia and others throughout the world.

### DEFENCE

24. Will the Common Market put an end to war?

No; it is our alliances with our N.A.T.O. partners which are the safeguard against war.

25. Has the Common Market anything to do with defence?

No. The Council of Ministers (on 6th June, 1974 in the European Assembly) specifically said that defence "does not come within the jurisdiction of the Communities."

26. What are the defence consequences of coming out?

None. Our defence is within N.A.T.O. Countries such as Norway who are not members of the Common Market belong to N.A.T.O. and France, which is a member of the Common Market, does not belong to N.A.T.O.

### MISCELLANEOUS

27. How correct were the forecasts of the benefits of entry made by the pro-Marketeers in 1971/2?

Practically all their major forecasts have turned out to be wrong. They forecast a high growth rate, higher investment, a strong upsurge of Common Market investment into U.K., an improved standard of living, improved productivity, increased employment. None of these things have happened. We must not again be misled by their false claims and bad judgement.

28. Is Denmark likely to come out if we do?

Yes. If Britain comes out, the Danes have been promised a referendum by their Government. At the moment they have a substantial majority in favour of coming out.

29. How can we effectively withdraw from the Common Market?

By repealing the European Communities Act which took us into the Common Market. (See Q. 4.)

30. Would Commissioners Soames & Thomson lose their jobs if we withdraw?

Yes; they are only members of the Commission by virtue of our membership of the Common Market.

31. If you are anti-Common Market does it mean you are anti-Europe?

No. We are against the Treaty of Rome and against the inevitable loss of self-government if we stay in.

32. Could we stand on our own if we came out?

Yes; of course we could. *Mr. Heath* said in the Conservative Party Manifesto 1970 "we can stand

on our own if the price is too high". *Mr. Roy Hattersley*, Minister of State (Foreign Office) said "Were we to choose that we no longer wished to remain in the Community we should be able to establish or re-establish a role in the world which would be satisfactory" (Hansard 29.1.75 col. 390).

**33. Will jobs be lost if we come out of the Common Market?**

No. Unemployment in Britain has increased since we joined the Common Market. In March 1975 it was up to 3.5%. In the same month of March 1975 unemployment in the other Common Market countries was; France 4.6%, Germany 5.2%, Italy 5.3%, Holland 5.3%, Belgium 5.9%, Ireland 8.3%, Denmark 14.1%. It seems to be "In the Market, out of work". If we were out of the Market we would be able to deal with unemployment by improving our world-wide trading opportunities in our own way rather than having our overseas trading negotiations carried out by the Common Market as happens now.

Furthermore, under Article 52 of the Treaty of Rome, companies registered in the U.K. can move capital to and set up factories in the Common Market, giving jobs to them and not us. In a Free Trade Area this can be controlled.

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